

For Immediate Release
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Welfare Assistance Employees Moved to Transitional Assistance Department

The following items came before the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors during their March 11th meeting:

- The Board voted to move approximately 600 employees from the Jobs and Employment Services Department into the Transitional Assistance Department. The employees to be moved refer CalWORKS (welfare) recipients to education and training services, as well as social services such as rent assistance, utility payments, and clothing. The transition will allow for centralized oversight, a reduction of duplication, and a potential future consolidation of resources.

“By combining these employees with the Transitional Assistance Department, we will be able to reduce administrative overhead costs without compromising the level of service provided,” said Supervisor Fred Aguiar.

- The Board discussed planned budget cuts totaling \$10.9 million. These cuts include a 30% reduction in the Auditor-Controller, Treasurer-Tax Collector, Grand Jury, and Airports Department general fund budgets. A decision on the cuts is expected next week. All Health and Human Services System departments are also currently developing 30% spend-down plans. These cuts will be implemented in response to reductions in the state budget that could negatively impact the county by more than \$200 million over the next two fiscal years.

“Given the financial difficulties that all levels of government are currently experiencing, it is necessary that we undertake these measures,” commented Supervisor Aguiar. “The actions discussed by the Board today, along with those to be taken in the near future, will ensure that the county is in a better financial position entering the next fiscal year.”

- At the request of Fourth District Supervisor Fred Aguiar, the Board of Supervisors appointed Mr. Bryan Chamlee of Ontario to the Workforce Investment Board for a two-year term to expire in January of 2004.

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